

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1 – 16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) A roof covering including a plurality of successive generally horizontal courses of laminated shingles, the shingles in each course being laid in a side-by-side relationship and horizontally offset from the shingles in adjacent courses, each laminated shingle comprising:

an overlay member having front and rear surfaces, the overlay member including a headlap portion and a butt portion, the butt portion including a plurality of tabs separated by cutouts, each tab including a layer of granules on the front surface forming a generally uniform color blend; and

an underlay member having a front surface attached to the rear surface of the overlay member;

~~wherein at least one tab of at least one shingle has a different color blend from at least one other tab when laid on a roof with other substantially identically shaped shingles in overlapping longitudinal courses to optically simulate a slate roof~~

wherein each tab has a single color blend, the color blends of some of the tabs of each shingle having a color blend different from the color blend of others of the tabs: and

wherein one of the color blends of the tabs occurs more frequently than any of the other color blends of the tabs, thereby defining a predominant tab color blend so that the appearance of the roof covering simulates a natural slate roof.

18 – 45. (Cancelled)

46. (New) The roof covering according to Claim 17, wherein the predominant tab color blend occurs in 60 percent of the tabs.

47. (New) The roof covering according to Claim 46, wherein each laminated shingle has at least four tabs.

48. (New) The roof covering according to Claim 46, wherein each laminated shingle is a three-tab laminated shingle.

49. (New) The roof covering according to Claim 17, wherein the predominant tab color blend occurs in within the range of from about 24 percent to about 55 percent of the tabs.

50. (New) The roof covering according to Claim 49, wherein each laminated shingle has at least four tabs.

51. (New) The roof covering according to Claim 49, wherein each laminated shingle is a three-tab laminated shingle.

52. (New) The roof covering according to Claim 17, wherein the predominant tab color blend occurs in over 50 percent of the tabs.

53. (New) The roof covering according to Claim 52, wherein each laminated shingle has at least four tabs.

54. (New) The roof covering according to Claim 52, wherein each laminated shingle is a three-tab laminated shingle.

55. (New) A roof covering including a plurality of successive generally horizontal courses of laminated shingles, the shingles in each course being laid in a side-by-side relationship and horizontally offset from the shingles in adjacent courses, each laminated shingle comprising:

an overlay member having front and rear surfaces, the overlay member including a headlap portion and a butt portion, the butt portion including a plurality of tabs separated by cutouts, each tab including a layer of granules on the front surface forming a generally uniform color blend; and

an underlay member having a front surface attached to the rear surface of the overlay member;

wherein each tab has a single color blend, the color blends of some of the tabs of each shingle having a color blend different from the color blend of others of the tabs; and

wherein one of the color blends of the tabs is gray, the gray color blend occurring more frequently than any of the other color blends of the tabs, thereby defining a predominant tab color blend so that the appearance of the roof covering simulates a natural slate roof.

56. (New) The roof covering according to Claim 55, wherein the predominant tab color blend occurs in 60 percent of the tabs.

57. (New) The roof covering according to Claim 56, wherein each laminated shingle has at least four tabs.

58. (New) The roof covering according to Claim 56, wherein each laminated shingle is a three-tab laminated shingle.

59. (New) The roof covering according to Claim 55, wherein the predominant tab color blend occurs in within the range of from about 24 percent to about 55 percent of the tabs.

60. (New) The roof covering according to Claim 59, wherein each laminated shingle has at least four tabs.

61. (New) The roof covering according to Claim 59, wherein each laminated shingle is a three-tab laminated shingle.

62. (New) The roof covering according to Claim 55, wherein the predominant tab color blend occurs in over 50 percent of the tabs.

63. (New) The roof covering according to Claim 62, wherein each laminated shingle has at least four tabs.

64. (New) The roof covering according to Claim 62, wherein each laminated shingle is a three-tab laminated shingle.